

Message Text

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UNCLAS ANKARA 1585

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SUBJECT: CIVIL VIOLENCE CONTINUES

REF: ANKARA 1549

1. CIVIL VIOLENCE CONTINUED FOR A SECOND DAY IN THE EASTERN TURKISH CITY OF ERZINCAN FEBRUARY 24, RESULTING IN 20 INJURIES (INCLUDING REPUBLICAN PEOPLES' PARTY (RPP) SENATOR NIYAZI UNSAL), ACCORDING TO PRESS REPORTS. DISTURBANCES ALSO SPREAD TO NEARBY VILLAGES BEFORE ORDER WAS RESTORED BY POLICE, JANDARMA, AND MILITARY FORCES. A TOTAL OF 153 PERSONS HAVE BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY IN THE TWO DAYS OF VIOLENCE.

2. MEANWHILE, THE STATE SECURITY COURTS HAVE OPENED INQUIRIES INTO THE ACTIVITIES OF THE RADICAL LEFTIST-CONTROLLED TURKISH TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION (TOB-DER) AND THE EXTREME RIGHTIST ULKU OCAKLARI AFTER POLICE UNCOVERED A NUMBER OF WEAPONS AT VARIOUS BRANCHES THOSE ORGANIZATIONS IN RECENT SEARCHES. THE ESKISHIR OFFICE OF THE ULKU OCAKLARI WAS ORDERED TO CLOSE DOWN AFTER WEAPONS AND EXPLOSIVES WERE FOUND THERE, ACCORDING TO THE PRESS. THE CLANDESTINE "BIZIM RADYO"

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(A TURKISH LANGUAGE COMMUNIST PROPAGANDA STATION WHICH FOR

MANY YEARS HAS OPERATED FROM THE GDR) BROADCASTS OF FEBRUARY 1-2 ALSO WERE UNDER EXAMINATION, FOLLOWING ALLEGATIONS THEY WERE CONNECTED WITH THE FEBRUARY 15-16 INCIDENTS.

3. COMMENTING ON THE RECENT DISTURBANCES,PRIMIN SADI IRMAK TOLD THE PRESS FEBRUARY 24 THAT THE OUTBREAK OF VIOLENCE WAS CAUSED BY THE ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL "BACKWARDNESS" OF TURKISH SOCIETY AND, HE CONTINUED, "WE CANNOT REMAIN IMPARTIAL WHEN ANARCHY COMES OUT AGAINST THE REGIME AND NO ONE MUST DOUBT THAT WE ARE OPPOSED TO ANARCHY." IRMAK SAID THERE WAS NO NEED TO DECLARE MARTIAL LAW IN ERZINCAN.

4. THE POLITICAL PARTIES, HOWEVER, CONTINUED TO PLACE THE BLAME FOR CIVIL DISTURBANCES ON THEIR POLITICAL RIVALS.

A. A JOINT DECLARATION ISSUED BY THE FOUR NATIONALIST FRONT PARTY LEADERS FEBRUARY 24 CHARGED THE RPP WITH PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY FOR RECENT CIVIL VIOLENCE. THE DECLARATION SAID, "THE RPP, WHICH FREED THE LEFTIST TERRORISTS OPPOSING THE STATE AND NATION AND WHICH KNOWINGLY PLACED IN KEY POSITIONS THE RELEASED ONES WHO WANT TO SPLIT THE NATION AND DESTROY TURKEY FROM WITHIN, IS CHIEFLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE LATEST ANARCHIC EVENTS."

B. JUSTICE PARTY CHAIRMAN SULEYMAN DEMIREL, APPEALING FOR THE PEOPLE TO REMAIN CALM AND FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO TAKE MORE EFFECTIVE MEASURES AGAINST THE VIOLENCE, WAS QUOTED AS SAYING THE RPP HAS "LONG SOWN THE SEEDS OF DIVISIVE DISCORD" AMONG THE POPULACE.

C. RPP DEPUTY SEC GEN DENIZ BAYKAL ANNOUNCED THAT HIS PARTY WILL ORGANIZE A SERIES OF REGIONAL RALLIES (BEGINNING IN ANTALYA MARCH 2) TO DISCUSS THE RECENT CIVIL DISTURBANCES, ACCORDING TO MASS-CIRCULATION DAILY GUNAYDIN.
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